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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Fifteenth executive session
Geneva, 20 June 1997
Item 1 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the fifteenth executive session of the Trade and Development Board, as approved by the Board at its fourteenth executive session on 24 March 1997, is reproduced in section I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in section II, are intended to furnish essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

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I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Matters requiring action by the Board in follow-up to the ninth session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies:

   (a) Reports of the Commissions on their first sessions

   (b) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and Programme Budget on its twenty-ninth session

   (c) Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on preparations for a meeting with actors in development

   (d) Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the implementation of the proposals contained in the agreed conclusions 436(XLIII): Development in Africa

3. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

   (a) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its thirtieth session

   (b) Report of the Joint UNCTAD/IMO Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Maritime Liens and Mortgages and Related Subjects on its ninth session

4. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedures of the Board

   (b) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

5. Other business

   - Adoption of the Technical Cooperation Strategy of UNCTAD

6. Report of the Board on its fifteenth executive session.

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda, as approved by the fourteenth executive session of the Board, is reproduced in section I above.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(15)/1 Provisional agenda and annotations

Item 2 Matters requiring action by the Board in follow-up to the ninth session of the Conference and arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies

(a) Reports of the Commissions on their first sessions

(i) Report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities on its first session (6-8 November 1996 and 19-21 February 1997)

The first session of the Commission was held in two parts: from 6 to 8 November 1996 and from 19 to 21 February 1997.

At the first part of its session the Commission adopted under agenda item 3, in annex I.A of its report, *Agreed conclusions on enabling countries to respond to the opportunities arising from the Uruguay Round Agreements so as to derive maximum available benefit by: analysing the impact of the Uruguay Round Agreements on development and enhancing capacities for participation in the multilateral trading system*, and decided to convene two Expert Meetings: (i) on *Strengthening the Capacity and Expanding Exports of Developing Countries in the Services Sector: Health Services* (16-18 June 1997) and (ii) on *Vertical Diversification in the* Food *Processing Sector in Developing Countries* (1-3 September 1997).

Furthermore, at the second part of its session, under agenda item 4, in annex I.B - the Commission also adopted *Agreed conclusions on integrating trade, environment and development: recent progress and outstanding issues*, and decided to convene two Expert Meetings: (i) on *Positive Measures to Promote Sustainable Development, Particularly in Meeting the Objectives of MEAs* (29-31 October 1997); and (ii) on *Trade and Investment Impacts of Environmental Management Standards, Particularly the ISO 14000, on Developing Countries* (3-5 November 1997). The Commission also adopted, at its closing meeting, on 21 February 1997, a Message to the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, reproduced in annex III of its report.

The Commission also approved its provisional agenda for the second session as contained in annex IV.

In taking note of the report of the Commission, the Board may wish to endorse the two agreed conclusions in annex I of the report and, in accordance with subparagraph 107(f) of the Midrand final document, *to draw elements for development perspectives to reach operational conclusions and recommendations to determine the direction of new work.*

Documentation

TD/B/44/5-TD/B/COM.1/6 Report of the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities on its first session.

(ii) Report of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues on its first session (18-22 November 1996 and 7 February 1997)

At its first session, the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues considered two substantive items, namely: "Developments in international investment: interaction between investment and trade and its impact on development" and "Issues related to competition law of particular relevance to development"

The Commission adopted its agreed conclusions as reflected in annex I of its report and decided to convene three meetings: (i) on *Existing Agreements on Investment and their Development Dimensions* (28-30 May 1997); (ii) on *Investment Promotion and Development Objectives* (15-17 September 1997); and (iii) on *Competition Law and Policy* (24-26 November 1997).

The Commission also approved its provisional agenda for the second session as contained in annex III of its report.

In taking note of the report of the Commission, the Board may wish to endorse the agreed conclusions in annex I. The attention of the Board is drawn to the question of the status of the two IGEs and their relationship with other expert meetings of the Commission which is still pending, as referred to in the Chairperson's closing statement (paragraphs 79-83 of its report).

The Board may, in accordance with subparagraph 107(f) of the Midrand final document, *draw elements for development perspectives to reach operational conclusions and recommendations to determine the direction of new work.*

Documentation

TD/B/44/4-TD/B/COM.2/4 Report of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues on its first session.

(iii) Report of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development on its first session, (20-24 January 1997)

At its first session, the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitaton and Development considered two substantive items, namely: *Issues Relating to an Enterprise Development Strategy*; and *Services Infrastructure for Development and Trade Efficiency Assessment*.

The Commission adopted two sets of agreed conclusions which are in annex I and II of its report. In the light of these agreed conclusions the Commission decided to convene three Expert Meetings: (i) on the *Use of Information Technologies to Make Transit Agreements more Effective* (5-7 May 1997); (ii) on *Government and Private Sector Roles and Interactions in SME Development* (23-25 July 1997); and on *Telecommunications, Business Facilitation and Trade Efficiency* (8-10 September 1997).

The Commission also approved the provisional agenda for its second session as contained in annex VI of its report.

In taking note of the report of the Commission, the Board may wish to endorse the two sets of agreed conclusions in annex I and II and, in accordance with subparagraph 107(f) of the Midrand final document, *to draw elements for development perspectives to reach operational conclusions and recommendations to determine the direction of new work*.

Documentation

TD/B/44/2-TD/B/COM.3/4 Report of the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development on its first session

(b) Report of the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and Programme Budget on its twenty-ninth session, (16-17 January and 21-23 May 1997)

The twenty-ninth session of the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and Programme Budget was divided into two parts. At the first part, the Working Party reviewed the draft programme narrative, as submitted by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. The short time-lapse between the second part of the Working Party's session and the current session of the Board precludes the processing of the final report of the Working Party in time for this session of the Board. However, the main elements of the outcome of the Working Party at its closing meeting will be before the Board.

In-session Documentation

(c) Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on preparations for a meeting with actors in development

Paragraph 118 of *A Partnership for Growth and Development* requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to consult with non-governmental actors, and to report to the Trade and Development Board with recommendations to enhance further their participation in UNCTAD's work. Paragraph 119 noted with appreciation the Secretary-General's initiative to hold a meeting with actors in development to advise him, and invited the Secretary-General to keep the Board informed of preparations for his meeting.

At its fifteenth executive session, the Secretary-General will present to the Board an oral report concerning the preparations for this meeting for which the name "Partners for Development Forum" has been adopted and which will be convened under the over-arching theme of Markets and Development. The report will include information on the topics to be discussed at the meeting and the outcome the Secretary-General expects from it, as well as on participants, format, place and dates. The Secretary-General will also inform the Board of the status of contacts with the host city concerning the material preparations for the meeting.

No documentation

(d) Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the implementation of the proposals contained in the agreed conclusions 436(XLIII): Development in Africa

The Board, at its forty-third session, requested the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to report to an executive session of the Board on the manner in which he will implement the proposals contained in its agreed conclusions 436(XLIII). The report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD in TD/B/EX(15)/2 consists of a progress report on action being undertaken by the UNCTAD secretariat and planned activities in favour of African countries.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(15)/2	Report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the implementation of the proposals contained in Board agreed conclusions 436(XLIII): Development in Africa.

Item 3 Other matters in the field of trade and development:

(a) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its thirtieth session (21-24 April 1997)

At its thirtieth session the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO reviewed ITC's technical cooperation activities in 1996; approved the report on the evaluation of the ITC subprogramme: Human resource development; and took note of the report of the Consultative Committee on the ITC Global Trust Fund.

Documentation

TB/B/EX(15)/4	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat.
ITC/AG(XXX)/164	Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO on its thirtieth session

(b) Report of the Joint UNCTAD/IMO Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Maritime Liens and Mortgages and Related Subjects on its ninth session (2-6 December 1996)

The Joint UNCTAD/IMO Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Maritime Liens and Mortgages and Related Subjects held its ninth session in Geneva from 2 to 6 December 1996. The Joint Group completed consideration of the draft articles for a new convention on arrest of ships. It also recommended to the IMO Council and to the Trade and Development Board of UNCTAD that they consider favourably, on the basis of the useful work done so far, proposing to the General Assembly of the United Nations the convening of a diplomatic conference to consider and adopt a convention on arrest of ships on the basis of the work done by the joint Group (see the Report of the Joint Group, annex I).

This recommendation was endorsed by the IMO Legal Committee at its seventy-fifth session which was held in April 1997. The report of the Joint Group will be submitted for consideration to the IMO Council at its seventyeighth session which is scheduled to be held from 23 to 27 June 1997.

The Board may wish to take note of the report of the Joint Group and endorse the recommendation contained therein.

Documentation

TD/B/44/3-TD/B/IGE.1/4	Report of the Joint UNCTAD/IMO on Maritime Liens and Mortgages and Related Subjects on its ninth session

Item 4 Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters

(a) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

A list of the 105 intergovernmental organizations in status with UNCTAD is contained in TD/B/IGO/LIST/2. Any new applications will be reflected in an addendum to the present document.

Documentation

TD/B/IGO/LIST/2	List of IGOs in status with UNCTAD

(b) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

At present there are 174 non-governmental organizations in status with UNCTAD - 87 in the general category and 87 in the special category. A list of these organizations is contained in TD/B/NGO/LIST/1 and Addenda 1 to 3.

At the fifteenth executive session, the Board will be invited to consider applications from the two non-governmental organizations listed below. In accordance with the provisions of rule 77, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will consult the Bureau and the Bureau's recommendations will be submitted to the Board.

Annotations concerning any further applications will be contained in an addendum to the present document.

Documentation

TD/B/NGO/LIST/1 and Addenda 1-3	List of NGOs in status with UNCTAD
TD/B/EX(15)/R.1	Note by the UNCTAD secretariat
TD/B/EX(15)/R.1/Add.1	Application by the International Group of Protection and Indemnity Associations
TD/B/EX(15)/R.1/Add.2	Application by the International Chromium Development Association

Participation of NGOs in the activities of UNCTAD

The Trade and Development Board, at its forty-third session, noted that the Economic and Social Council had adopted resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 entitled *Consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations*, which up-dates the arrangements on consultative relations with non-governmental organizations set out in Economic and

Social Council resolution 1296(XLIV) of 23 May 1968. In view of this development, the Board noted also that the UNCTAD secretariat would review the arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the activities of UNCTAD, as contained in Board decision 43(VII) of 20 September 1968, and would report to the Board at an executive session. The secretariat has prepared a note *Non-governmental organizations participating in the activities of UNCTAD*, embodying the results of its review of the arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the activities of UNCTAD. This note: (i) reviews briefly the rules and procedures of ECOSOC and of UNCTAD on consultative relations with non-governmental organizations; (ii) recommends changes in the UNCTAD rules and procedures on consultative relations with non-governmental organizations; and (iii) recommends a reclassification of special category non-governmental organizations in consultative status with UNCTAD.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(15)/3	Non-governmental organizations participating in the activities of UNCTAD. Note by the UNCTAD secretariat.

Inclusion of national non-governmental organizations in the Register in conformity with Board decision 43(VII)

The Board will be invited to take note that, following consultations with the member States concerned (South Africa, the United Kingdom and India), the Secretary-General of UNCTAD has included the Land and Agriculture Policy Centre; the Foundation for International Environmental Law; and the Consumer Unity and Trust Society in the Register of national non-governmental organizations provided for under Board decision 43(VII), sections III and IV.

Documentation

TD/B/EX(15)/L.1	Land and Agriculture Policy Centre
TD/B/EX(15)/L.2	Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development
TD/B/EX(15)/L.3	Consumer Unity and Trust Society

Item 5 Other business

Adoption of the Technical Cooperation Strategy of UNCTAD

At its fourteenth executive session, on 24 March 1997, the Board noted the progress in developing UNCTAD's technical cooperation Strategy. It requested the Secretary-General to continue his consultations with a view to enabling the Board to adopt the Strategy formally at its fifteenth executive session.

The text of the *Technical Cooperation Strategy of UNCTAD* is contained in Part A of TD/B/EX(14)/3.

The Board is invited to adopt the text as the "Technical Cooperation Strategy of UNCTAD".

Documentation

TD/B/EX(14)/3	Technical Cooperation (Part A - Strategy for UNCTAD)

Item 6 Report of the Board on its fifteenth executive session

Pending the final report of the Board on its fifteenth executive session, the secretariat will circulate a synoptic record of the proceedings of the session.